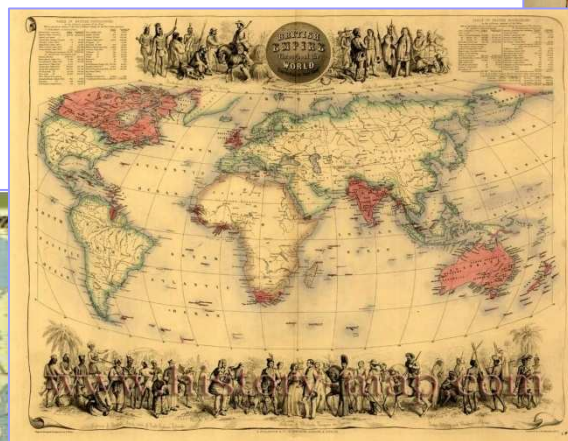




THE BRITISH EMPIRE



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0. Warm-up

- Explain the difference between the notion of “kingdom” and “empire”
- Write a list of the ideas you associate with the “British Empire”
- Look at the picture.
What does it symbolise?

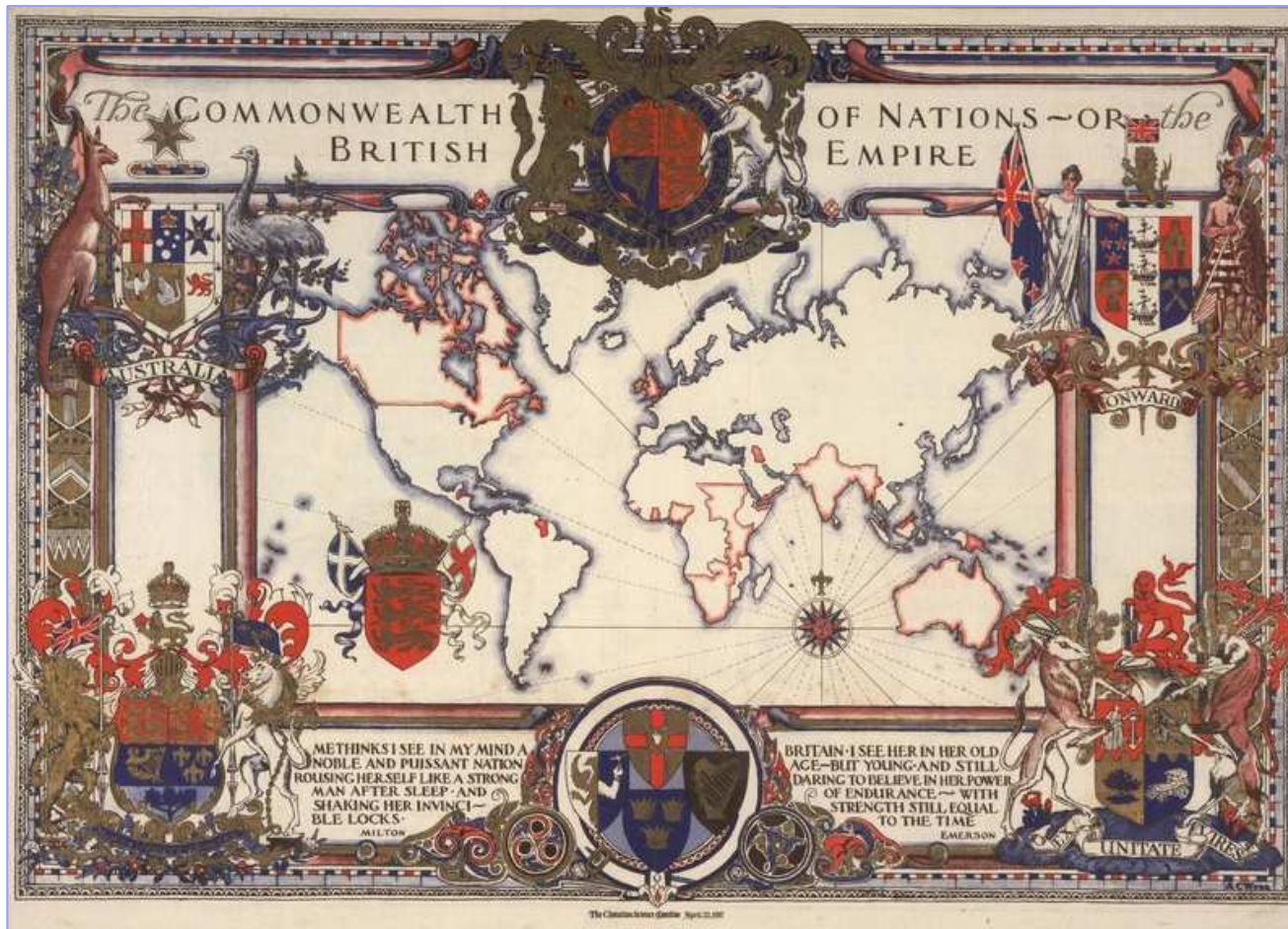


1. Introduction

- The British Empire was one of the biggest empires in the world
- In the 1920s 25% of the world's population lived under British rule
- A quarter of the land in the world belonged to Britain



2. The British Empire



2.1 The Foundation

- The foundations of the British Empire dates back to the 16th century
- Elizabeth I (1558-1603) secretly encouraged sea-captains like DRAKE, RALEIGH and HAWKINS



2.1 The Foundation continued

- They were engaged in piracy and explored trade routes in the Americas and in the Caribbean
- England became a commercial and seafaring power
- In the 17th century the first colonies were created in North America



2.2 The Development

- In the 18th and 19th centuries the British Empire expanded all over the world from West Africa to the Caribbean
- In 1770 Captain James Cook reached Australia and New Zealand



2.2 The Development continued

- In 1776 Canada, India, Ceylon, Gibraltar and Malta became parts of the Empire
- In the 1800s Britain began adding African land to its empire
- Also Hong Kong, Singapore, Fiji and Burma became British colonies



2.2 The Development continued

- English manufactured goods were exported worldwide
- Raw materials and foodstuffs were imported from the colonies
- Exports grew from £ 25.4 till £ 76 million between 1809 and 1839



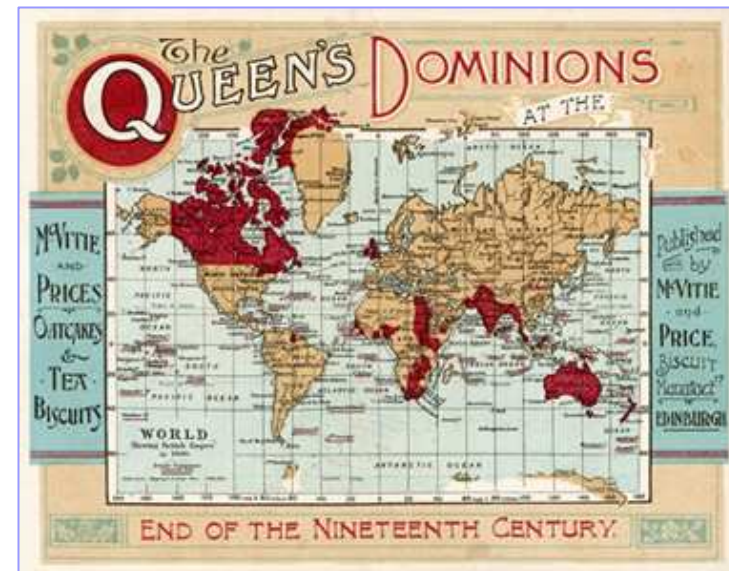
2.3 The Decline

- The Empire reached its peak in 1876 when Queen Victoria was declared Empress of India
- In 1870s the British Empire began to collapse



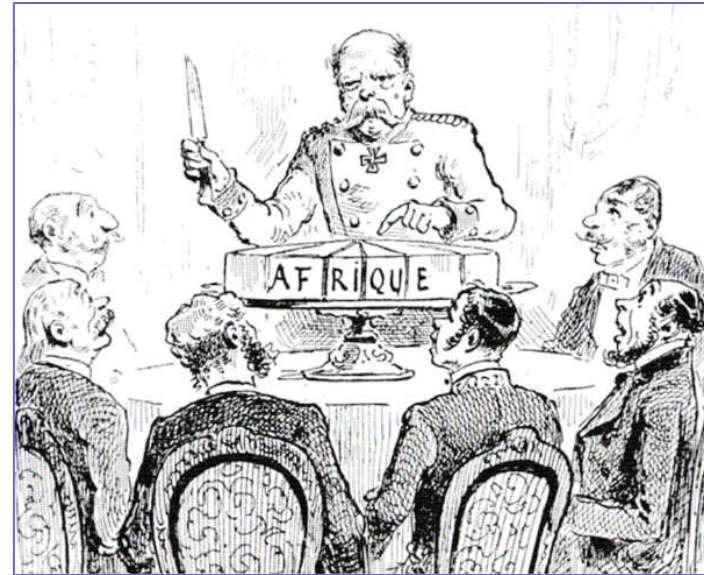
2.3 The Decline continued

- New commercial powers like Germany and the United States were pioneered elsewhere
- In the 20th century the Age of the Empire came to an end
- Many colonies gained independence



3. A two-Faced Reality Empire

- Expansionist activity reached a crescendo with the *scramble for Africa*
- It took place in the 1880s and 1890s
- It was related to Patriotism which was deeply influenced by ideal or racial superiority



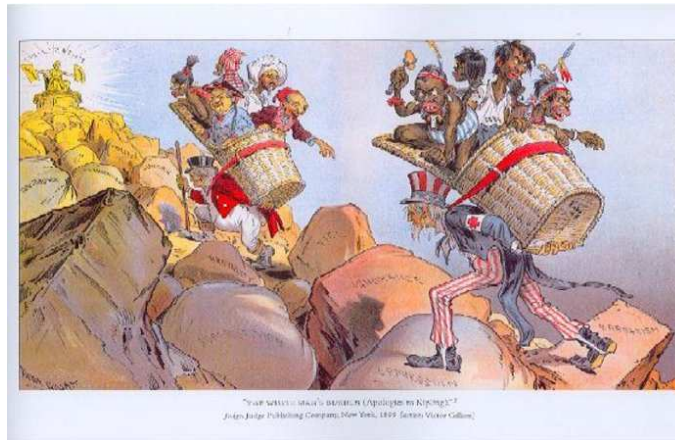
3.1 R. Kipling (1865-1936)

- He is considered the *Bard of the British Empire*
- He believed that the British were destined to lead the other *races* of the world
- The British had to carry civilisation to the barbarian, faith to the heathen, wealth to the poor



3.1 R. Kipling (1865-1936) continued

- In 1898 Kipling celebrated the American conquest of the Philippines

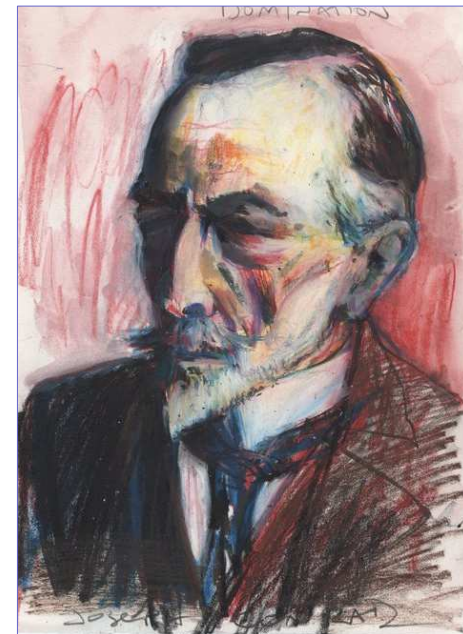


- The *White Man's Burden* symbolises the belief in the superiority of the white race over the primitives living in the colonies



3.2 J. Conrad (1857-1924)

- One of the greatest British novelists
- His novel *Heart of Darkness* (1899) criticises the Empire
- The Empire was based on absolute economic exploitation



3.2 J. Conrad (1857-1924) continued

- The main character, Marlow, discovers during his journey along the Congo river that the heart of darkness is in Europe
- European civilisation darkens the white heart of Africa because the white men are moved by economic interests
- Civilisation means cruelty and inhumanity



3.3 D. Livingstone (1813-1873)



3.4 Workshop

- What does Kipling actually mean by “burden”?
- What are the advantages brought to the colonised people by imperialism?
- Who was D. Livingstone, and what did he do?
- Why is he considered a “myth”?
- FILL IN the table with the Victorian arguments for and against imperialism. Then share your ideas with the rest of the class

ARGUMENTS FOR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST

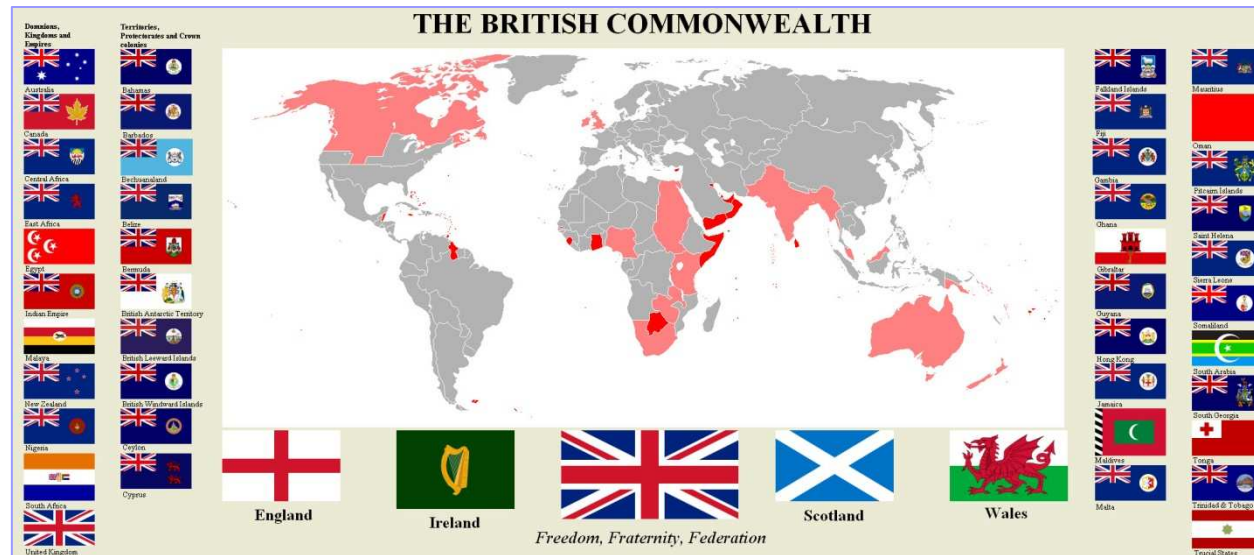
4 The Commonwealth

- The Empire evolved into the British Commonwealth
- It is a more informal, voluntary confederation of independent states
- The Queen is the Head of the Commonwealth



4.1 The Foundation

- It was established in 1931 and it is made up of 53 countries



- It aims at keeping cultural contacts alive among Britain and the ex colonies

4.2 Spotlights on Australia

- In 1788 Britain started transporting prisoners to Sydney
- Many came from London and Ireland
- Features of Cockney and Irish English are evident in Australian speech today



4.2 Spotlights on Australia continued



4.2 Spotlights on Australia continued

Do you know some of these expressions?



4.2 Spotlights on Australia continued

- *Pass me the eau de Cologne = Pass me the phone*
- *I'll go and have a Captain Cook = Go for a look*
- “make” is pronounced “mike”
- “Yous” means “you” as second person plural “you”

4.2 Spotlights on Australia continued



4.2 Spotlights on Australia continued

Australian English often uses humour to create very colorful idioms, for example:

- *It's useful as an ashtray on a motorbike*
- *He made a pavement pizza*
- *Give me a glass of neck oil*

Try to guess the meaning...



4.2 Spotlights on Australia continued

Australians refer to the English as “Poms” or “Pommies”.

The word comes from a combination of “immigrant” and “pomegranate” – because that’s what

they think the English look like when they’ve been in the Australian sun!



Quiz

http://www.edmodo.com/home#/quiz?quiz_id=1198123

